

# AITSIKI

April 2025 • Matsiyikkapisaiki'somm



**MARCH  
MADNESS**

**MADDIX  
RUNNING  
RABBIT'S  
FIGHT DEBUT**

**SIKSIKA  
NEWS**



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## **WELCOME**

**Aitsiniki Magazine  
Celebrating One Full Year & A Fresh New Look!**

Dear Readers,

Welcome to a very special edition of Aitsiniki Magazine!

We're beyond excited to share our brand-new look with you—and just in time to celebrate a major milestone: our one-year anniversary! It was April 2024 when we first launched this publication with the goal of informing, inspiring, and connecting our community. A year later, we're proud to say that journey has only just begun.

This issue is packed with stories that reflect the heartbeat of our people and the strength of our culture. From the high-energy spirit

of March Madness and the vibrant celebration of Powwows, to heartfelt highlights of community member accomplishments and key updates from our Tribal Administration—we've covered it all.

We're honored to continue serving you with stories that matter, voices that inspire, and a publication that represents who we are. Thank you for being a part of this growing journey. Whether you've been with us since the very beginning or are just now joining, Aitsiniki Magazine is your magazine—your voice, your community, your story.

Here's to many more years of storytelling and togetherness!

# SIKSIKA NATION NEWS

## New Process for Requesting Indian Numbers (IRNs) & Siksika Band Membership IDs

Oki, Siksika Nation Members, We want to inform you of an important update regarding how to re-request Indian Registration Numbers (IRNs) and Siksika Band Membership ID Letters. To better protect your personal information and reduce the risk of fraud and identity theft, Siksika Nation can no longer provide registration details or membership information over the phone. This change ensures that your private data stays secure and is only shared through proper, verified channels. What's the New Process?

If you require your Indian Registration Number or a Siksika Band Membership ID Letter, you will now need to:

Complete a request form

Pay a \$10 processing fee

This form helps us verify your identity and ensures your information is handled with the highest level of care and confidentiality.

### Fee Waivers

We understand there are times when access to this information is urgent. For that reason, the \$10 fee will be waived in the following situations:

Emergencies, such as medical or dental appointments

Requests made by authorized third parties, such as: Siksika Family & Children's Services

Siksika Addiction Services

Other Siksika-related programs and departments

Please note: Even in these cases, the request form must still be completed by the third party.

### Where to Get the Form

You can download the request form directly from our website: <https://siksikanation.com/membership/> We appreciate your patience and understanding as we move forward with this improved process. These changes are part of our commitment to protecting the privacy, dignity, and identity of all Siksika Nation members. If you have any questions or need help completing the form, feel free to reach out to our Membership Department.

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## Harvesting Applications Open for Teepee Poles at Castle Mountain

The Siksika Consultation Office is now accepting Teepee Pole Harvesting requests at Castle Mountain from Siksika Nation members. Send your request to [sheridayf@siksikanation.com](mailto:sheridayf@siksikanation.com) and include the following information: Contact person: Name and phone number

Date of harvest

Who will be receiving the poles that

are being harvested?

Vehicle description being used to pick up the poles (make, model, and license plate number)

Number of Teepee Pole sets

Size of the group that will be assisting you

Once we have all your information, we will contact Parks Canada to fi-

nalize details. We will get the necessary documentation you will require prior to going out and harvesting your teepee poles.

For more information please contact:

Siksika Consultation Office

Phone: (403) 734-5137

email: [sheridayf@siksikanation.com](mailto:sheridayf@siksikanation.com)

# PUBLIC NOTICE:

## Siksika Nation Membership Tribunal Notice

### Membership Application Deadlines and Tribunal Schedule 2025 - 2026

Dear Siksika Nation Members, The Siksika Membership Department would like to inform Siksika Nation members of the upcoming 2025 - 2026 Membership Tribunal schedule and Membership application deadlines. All membership applications will need to be submitted by the deadlines provided in order for their applications to be tabled at the Membership Tribunal Meeting. As outlined in the Siksika Nation Membership Code and Regulations, all applications must be complete to be accepted for review by the Tribunal.

Please Note: There will be no Tribunal meetings in April 2025, July 2025, or January 2026.

Important Application Information: By Article 4 of the Membership Code and Section 39 of the Membership Regulations:

Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

All applications must be submitted using the prescribed forms available through the Membership Office.

Required documents include:

An original Birth certificate , no copies

Proof of Blackfoot (Siksika) blood quantum

Parent and grandparent membership verification (as applicable)

Current contact information for service of documents

Application Fees:

A \$10 Application Fee is required for all applications.

A \$250 Deposit (non-refundable) is only required for Band Transfer Applications, with an additional \$750 due upon successful completion of the probation period.

We encourage all prospective applicants to submit well in advance of the deadlines to allow for internal processing.

For deadlines on application and meeting dates, please go to: <https://siksikanation.com/siksi->

[ka-nation-membership-tribunal-notice/](https://siksikanation.com/ka-nation-membership-tribunal-notice/)

If you have any questions or require assistance, please get in touch with the Siksika Membership Office:

Phone: 403-734-5135

Email: [membership@siksikanation.com](mailto:membership@siksikanation.com)

Your attention to deadlines and the completeness of your application are essential for ensuring a smooth review process for all.

The poster features a red background with a white banner at the top right that says "SIKSIKA NATION". In the top left, the word "Okii" is written in a white, stylized script. Below this, a dark blue banner contains the words "PUBLIC NOTICE" in white, bold, italicized capital letters. To the left of the distribution details is a small image of a Siksika Nation logo featuring a bison and the words "SIKSIKA NATION". To the right of the logo, the text "MA'TAPIIKS TRUST DISTRIBUTION" is written in white, bold, capital letters. Below this, the dates and locations are listed: "July 3rd, 2025 - Siksika Piiksapi Memorial Arbour 9AM - 6PM" and "July 4th, 2025 - Calgary 60 Sunpark Plaza S.E. 9AM - 6PM". At the bottom, a white box contains the text "\$ 1,015.00 PER PERSON" in bold, followed by "Half of Minor Children's funds will be put in the Ma'tapiiks Trust with RBC". Below this, it states "The total Per Capita Distribution payment is \$2,335.00 per Nation Member, in accordance with the Siksika Nation Distribution Policy. \$1,015.00 will be issued July 2-3, 2025 and \$1,320.00 on December 3 - 4, 2025." At the very bottom, the word "CONTACT" is written in small capital letters, followed by "Phone: 403-734-5135 or email: [membership@siksikanation.com](mailto:membership@siksikanation.com)" and the website "SIKSIKANATION.COM" in bold capital letters.

# Siksika Nation Public Safety Justice Services Update

Under the direction of Justice Supervisor Tracy Many Heads, Siksika Justice Services is pleased to announce some exciting new updates!

In March 2025, the Siksika Aiskapimohkiiks Program completed training for new mediators. The training, which was held over a period of three weeks, brought together a diverse group of individuals with a passion for peacemaking in our community. For more information, please come to the Aiskapimohkiiks Open House on April 25, 2025 at the Siksika High School!

As part of our commitment to providing Restorative Justice to our community, we are launching a new Specialized Victims Support Navigation Program, with Waylon Black, designed to provide tailored assistance for clients who have been victims of crime in navigating the judicial system. Providing a holistic and client first method, this program, currently under develop-

ment, will allow clients to feel safe, supported and have the capacity to take back their power and lead the journey to their own healing. In addition to the Specialized Victim Support Navigator, the program will be utilizing Youth Mentors/Peer Support Mentors, Athena Yellowhorse, Hope Many Heads-Fox, and Delray Yellow Old Woman, as well as experienced Elders from the Aiskapimohkiiks Program, including Elder Eileen Black who has over 40 years experience in this service area as well as formal education in Criminal Justice. Together, this diverse team commits to your well-being. Remember... there is always hope! Please keep an eye out for updates for Victims and Survivors of Crime Week 2025 will take place from May 11 to 17, 2025.

The Youth Justice Committee, led by Client Navigator Simonne Backfat, is growing and developing, providing opportunities for our youth

to engage positively within the community. By creating Specialized Healing Plans for each clients unique needs, this program aims to offer new guidance to individuals as they work to better themselves.

Our Court Workers continue to be at your service at the Siksika/Strathmore/Calgary court centres to ensure that your rights are being protected and helping you to receive the best possible resolution to all of your court matters. Please note that the Strathmore Court House is closed until further notice. All Strathmore traffic court matters will be heard in Calgary during this time.

As you traverse the Siksika Nation, you will be sure to see our ever diligent Peace Officers, Security and Animal Control Workers doing their part to keep our nation safe. Please do your part in keeping our Nation safe by reporting your concerns to 403-734-3815.

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## Siksika Animal Services Notice

Please contact us if you:

See an Animal in distress

Have been involved with a dog bite incident

Have concerns with aggressive dog behavior

See animals creating safety hazard

Want to report an abandoned animal

Have an animal you would like to rehome

Need information about spay and neuter programs offered

Siksika Animal Services is responsible for the enforcement of the Siksika Dog Care and Control Bylaw.

**GIVING BASIC CARE TO DOGS:**

Section 25.01

An Owner of a Dog must ensure:

That the Dog receives food, water, shelter, proper veterinary care and exercise, all of which are sufficient to maintain the dog in good health

**PET OWNERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN PETS**

**WHAT TO DO IF BITTEN BY A DOG:**

If skin has been broken, wash the wound immediately with warm soapy water

Visit a health care professional. You may need a tetanus shot or other treatment

If injuries are severe, call an ambulance or go to the nearest emergency room

Report the incident to Siksika Animal Services. Make note of key details such as:

Description of dog (Colour, size etc.)

Where and when the incident occurred

What occurred leading up to the incident

Report any aggressive or threatening dog behavior, please contact

Siksika Animal Services to report the incident

(403)-734-3815

# Memorial Park Buildings Program Update: Tradeshow Planned for June

Siksika Nation is pleased to announce the launch of the Memorial Park Buildings Program, a key initiative designed to meet the growing needs of our community. This program, led by Siksika Nation Engineering Services (SNES) includes a range of exciting projects, such as the construction of a new Memorial Building (the former Parish Hall), renovations to the Crowfoot School for use as a Community Centre, the establishment of a new police headquarters, and upgrades to external landscaping, water supply and wastewater systems, among other community developments.

To support the successful development and delivery of these projects, SNES, Siksika Employment and Training Services (SETS) and the Siksika Communications Department are hosting a construction tradeshow. This event aims to gather information on available local labor and provide a platform for community members to meet with businesses. Community members will have the chance to learn about the various

aspects of the Memorial Park Buildings Program and upcoming opportunities as the program progresses.

The tradeshow is intended to gather valuable information to inform potential employment for future stages of the projects; there are no confirmed employment or contracting opportunities available at this time. Please note that by participating, there is no guarantee that any individual will be selected for a role or contract.

The tradeshow will be held at the Piiksapi Arbor on June 4th, 2025, from 9.00 AM - 3.00 PM. We invite community members to attend and share their resumes. Information collected during the tradeshow will be used as the

Memorial Park Buildings Program progresses.

If you are interested in participating, please RSVP, confirming your attendance. Should you have any questions or need further details, please contact [blaines@siksikanation.com](mailto:blaines@siksikanation.com) or [carson.brennen@hatch.com](mailto:carson.brennen@hatch.com).

We look forward to your participation and the opportunity to work together, to strengthen our community through the Memorial Park Buildings Program. Thank you for your time and interest.



ITAI'SAKOPII'A "CHILDREN IN A GOOD HOME"



BECOME

A caregiver today

Call Placement Resources  
today to inquire about  
becoming a caregiver  
**587-323-3211**  
680 Westchester Road, Strathmore, AB



HELP BRING  
OUR CHILDREN HOME



# NEW STAFF @ AITSINIKI



**MASE**

Hello everyone! My name is Mase Scarlet, and I'm Siksika Media's newest Media Specialist. I'm here to do good things, and I want to do good things. I intend to work really hard and keep busy as often as I can. I have a few personal goals for the next few years, and after those years, I'd like to return to school to become a journalist or psychologist. I am 22 years old; my birthday is November 19th, 2002. My parents are Carrie Stevens and Jason Crow Chief. I have 4 younger siblings, 3 nephews, and 3 nieces. My family has 3 dogs, and I have 4 cats.

The most important person to me is my kid brother Kingsley, whom I've helped raise with my mom. I've been learning embroidery, and I've been reading a lot. I'm reading *The Count of Monte Cristo* (the Penguin Classics version), *You Like It Darker* by Stephen King (slowly), and I've finished the latest *Hunger Games* book, *Sunrise on the Reaping*. I'm also reading a book about the history of humans, and I'm almost

done with *To Kill a Mockingbird*. My favourite book series is *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi—I've read all 5 of them.

I enjoy watching movies and TV shows; that's usually what I'm doing most of the time as well. I was invited out personally 3 separate times by the University of Calgary to take photos for them, and I've been taking personal photos about stuff I'm doing or where I am, and still writing personal diary entries, but about myself now.

My favourite song is "Can't Catch Me Now" by Olivia Rodrigo because of the way it reminds me of a bird flying around. I will represent Siksika Media, my mom and little siblings, and my two best friends as best as I can wherever I go as my time is allocated here.



**REX**

Oki i am Rex also known as (REXXXX) A musician, artist, producer, dj in the underground scene, [REXXXX] Based in Calgary, AB, [REXXXX]'s music blends elements of EDM, LOFI, wave, trap, and alternative. creating a unique sound that resonates with a growing fanbase. After releasing their debut EP to critical acclaim, [REXXXX] from siksika raised in Calgary "I'm a part of the meaningful futures program, now becoming part of the team at siksika media on the path of recording/sound engineering."



**MARCUS**

My name is Marcus Smith, and I am from the Siksika Nation. My parents are Trevor Smith and Kennedy Running Rabbit. Currently, I am enrolled in the Meaningful Futures program at Siksika Employment and Training, with a goal of becoming a sound engineer at Siksika Media, particularly for the radio station. I aim to build experience in the technical side of music, with aspirations of becoming a DJ in the EDM field.

I have a passion for music and have volunteered at local community hockey games and tournaments. Additionally, I serve as the Equipment Manager for the Siksika Buffaloes Senior AA Hockey Club. In my free time, I enjoy dancing grass and traveling, especially during the summer.





# HAPPY ADMIN DAY!

By Edna Many Heads

**O**ki Siksika! On April 23, 2025 it was National Admin Day across Canada. National Administrative Day, also known as Secretaries Day or Admin Day, recognizes the professionals who keep an office running smoothly every day. We would just like to give a big shoutout to all of the Administrative Specialists, Customer Service Representatives, and Administrative Assistants that keep the Siksika Nation Tribal Administration going on the daily! We thank you for all of your hard work!

### Chief and Council Services

Mariah Little Chief, Sharron Brass, and Chloe Many Guns

### Siksika Nation Housing Department

Jessica Lepage, Sadey Black Horse, Jimmy Weasel Child, Cynthia Bastein, and Nevan Bear Chief

### Siksika Nation Land Management

Tannis Ouellette, Dallas Bear Chief, and Maria Stimson

### Siksika Justice Department

Marisa Black Kettle, and Loreli Calf Robe

### Employee and Administration Services

Jill Vienneau, Pam Corbin, Arnelle Medicine Shield, Marcal Medicine Shield, Daelynn Water Chief, and Jackie Scott

### Sunpark Plaza Siksika Office/Engineering Services

Amanda Brass

### Siksika Treasury Department

Lena Running Rabbit, Leah Bear Chief, and Alana Running Rabbit

### Siksika Post Office

Robert Black

### Siksika Public Safety

Wayne Solway

### Siksika Membership Department

Francine Brass

### Consultation/SEDO

Sherida Yellow Fly

### Media/Communications

Edna Many Heads

### Public Works

Kansas Royal, Lianna Ayoungman, Taryn Running Rabbit, Tasheena Wright, Stacey Strikes With A Gun, Marion Yellow Fly, and Lorraine Scott

### Information Technology

Cassius Smith

### Siksika Support Centre

Laura Maguire, Antonia Wolf Leg, Elliza Spring Chief, and Krystal McMartin

### Siksika White Buffalo Resource Centre

Sonia Duck Chief

**“Behind every successful team, an extraordinary administrative professional keeps things in order.”**

# DONOVAN CROWCHILD WINS IN FANCY SPOTLIGHT SPECIAL

By Tyrone Sitting Eagle



**D**onovan Crowchild is a proud member of the Siksika Nation, he is mostly known for his passion for fancy dancing around powwow country. He has been dancing for a very long time and had support from a young age by his grandfather Willie Jerry, who brings him to powwows. Since a young age Donovan has been immersed in the powwow culture and travels extensively across Canada and United States. Recently, Donovan joined a Men's vs. Women's Fancy Dance Spotlight Special, here Donovan showcased his style and skill by making it all the way to the top, placing second in the special.

To make it to the final top two of the

special, Donovan had to first dance through three songs in the preliminary rounds to earn a spot in the top eight. From there, he faced off in a one-on-one dance-off, performing to another song that would determine who advanced. Donovan gave it his all and came out on top, securing his place in the final two dancers.

After securing his place in the top two, Donovan danced hard and ended up placing 2<sup>nd</sup>, winning 1400\$. This was a huge achievement as, there were over 30 dancers!

Donovan also exclaimed that it was a bit nerve racking, being the youngest dancer, and even getting

picked for the top 8 was just as surprising! "It was nerve racking being the youngest, and getting picked was even bigger. I didn't expect to get picked" said Donovan in an interview with Siksika.

Donovan Crowchild has been a strong advocate for the youth of Siksika, inspiring others through his years of dedication and skill in fancy dancing. He hopes to motivate the younger generation to step out and dance, encouraging them to get involved—no matter where they're starting from. "Even just wearing small pieces of regalia or incorporating it into your clothing is good enough," Donovan shared, emphasizing that every effort counts.

# CALGARY HITMEN'S BIGGEST FAN WINS HELMET DESIGN CONTEST

By Jasmine Majoros



Lateycia Running Rabbit's passion for drawing turned into a winning entry and a night to remember. She says she wanted to enter her design in the contest just for the fun of it. With no expectations of being selected, she was in school when she got the email that delivered the exciting news. Jumping for joy she was very happy to share this news with her school and her family. There were four hundred entries and to her surprise she made it to the top four and then eventually the overall winner of the contest.

In honor of her win, she was invited to a practice where she was presented her award, which was the physical helmet with her design. After the practice she got the opportunity to have her very own meet and greet with the Hitmen goalies and had her reaction video posted to their social media. As part of the prize was a pair of tickets to their Fan Appreciation Game, which is also when they have their Award Ceremony before the game.

Lateycia's love for the Hitmen began when she first attended their Annual Every Child Matters game. She's since then either watched

their games in person or on their streaming services, almost never missing a game. She also is very proud to say that at their pre-season game she was able to give her favorite player a beaded Hitmen medallion that she beaded herself. Although her favorite player was traded, she remains a hardcore Hitman fan and for right now her favorite player is Eric Tu.

"I'm a really big Hitmen fan and just I'm really thankful for winning, I'm thankful for them even having Every Child Matters game. That it represents us and the residential school survivors, I'm grateful that they have that game to acknowledge our people." - Lateycia Rabbit Carrier says.

Aside from the Hitmen and hockey, just like any 16-year-old teenager she likes to spend a lot of her time drawing and beading, playing video games, reading, listening to music, and joys Japanese Monga and spending time with her cat Star. She currently is a grade 10 student at the outreach school and aspires to attend university to become a Dentist.



By Andrew Breake

# SEASON ENDER

## TREATIES AND PROVINCIALS WRAP UP FOR SIKSIKA TEAMS

**T**he Native Alberta Provincials and Native Treaty Hockey Tournament have wrapped up for 2025, marking another exciting year of hockey. The first tournament, the Native Provincials, took place from April 3rd to 6th in Edmonton. The U15A Siksika team earned a bronze medal after a fierce competition in the semifinals. Meanwhile, the U13 Female and U18 Siksika teams both brought home silver, in thrilling matches that went into overtime, with the U18A team

narrowly losing in a shootout.

Following this, the Native Treaties tournament unfolded in Calgary from April 10th to 13th. This event was filled with unforgettable memories and experiences, providing enjoyment for all participants and spectators alike. It showcased top-notch hockey talent from Siksika and various other First Nation reserves. The U15 Female team fought valiantly, but fell short against Tsuu T'ina in the finals. The U15A boys' team also claimed a bronze medal,

while the U18A boys' team secured silver following a hard-fought battle against Enoch. In an outstanding performance, the U21 Female team triumphed over Kainai, winning the gold medal with a decisive 7-0 victory.

Congratulations to all Siksika players who participated in these significant hockey tournaments! The pride and courage you brought from Siksika to the ice truly reflect your dedication and spirit.

# MARCH MADNESS WRAP UP



## Siksika Parks and Recreation submission



**T**he annual March Madness tournament is a significant time for our nation's youth. Siksika Parks and Recreation aims to give our youth a chance to test their skills against local teams. This year, on the hockey side, there were five weekends in a row that hosted March Madness tournaments. Parks and Rec provided March Madness shirts for all participants, along with championship hats and a banner for the winning teams.

The U9s kicked off the month, hosting a one-day tournament with four teams from across southern Alberta, with each team playing three games. It is always a joy watching the young ones hustle around the rink. The following week, a Senior Jackpot was held with five teams comprised of adults from the Nation. It brought out the competitive side of many, with only one claiming the banner and hats. The U15s followed, with four teams entered in the two-day event, and the host team played the U13s in the finals to claim the hats and banner.

Next up was scheduled to be

the U18s event; however, due to last-minute cancellations, the tournament was postponed. With the ice slots open, a Sr. Jackpot replaced it for the weekend. It immediately filled up with four teams comprised of adults wanting to participate in a second tournament this month.

For the final weekend, the Deerfoot Sportsplex was filled with female hockey players from across the province competing in our open Annual Women's Tournament. Four teams competed in a total of 16 games in a highly competitive weekend, with the winners earning the championship hats and banner.

With two of our minor hockey teams still in the playoffs, it was an action-packed five weekends of hockey at the Deerfoot Sportsplex. With each day starting early and ending late, our staff met the challenge to ensure the ice and facility met—and exceeded—the standards it sets for the guests of the building. The annual March Madness tournament is an event many circle on their calendars, and we look forward to hosting it for many years to come.

# MADDIX IAN RUNNING RABBIT'S DEBUT MUAY THAI FIGHT

By Kaylum Red Gun

**O**n March 8th, Siksika's own Maddix Ian Running Rabbit made his debut in the world of amateur Muay Thai. At just 19 years old, born in 2006, Maddix faced off against fellow debutant Tre Flemming in a fierce match that ended with a hard-fought and well-earned victory by final decision. Both athletes pushed themselves to the limit, showcasing incredible talent and determination in the bout, which took place in Lethbridge, Alberta, under his newly signed contract with Branded Fighting Championship. Maddix's family, coaches, trainers and friends were there to witness the culmination of his dedication and hard work. The entire Siksika Nation is incredibly proud of his accomplishment and eagerly looks forward to his future success and journey in the sport.

Maddix has been training and dedicating himself to Muay Thai for around three years, and is currently attending university. During his time growing abilities in the sport, Maddix has trained at various gyms, including those on Siksika Nation, and in Calgary at Mike Miles and LFG Labs, where he currently trains. Under LFG Labs, the gym helped Maddix organize and prepare for his first amateur fight, which was set to take place on March 8th.

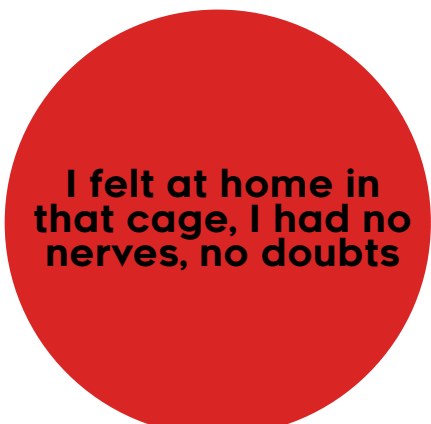
With less than a month, specifically three weeks, to train and prepare himself, Maddix faced setbacks due to injuries that hindered his preparation. Despite this, he held onto his 'no excuses' mindset and remained focused on his steadfast goal of representing Siksika Nation, and establishing himself in the fighting world.

A hard-fought battle unfolded in the octagon between these two young athletes. With blood and sweat spilled, Maddix's hard work and determination paid off, as he triumphed in his first bout. Despite the natural anxiety that comes with debuting in a fight, Maddix recalls feeling at ease during the match.

"I felt at home in that cage, I had no nerves, no doubts, just one goal, to knock my opponent out," he said.

With his first amateur victory secured, Maddix plans to continue his fight career, with his next match scheduled for May 3rd of this year. For now, he is taking some well-deserved rest and recuperation. When asked about his long-term goals in fighting and what the future holds, Maddix had this to say:

"I love fighting. It's definitely not a long-term goal as it shortens lives,



**I felt at home in that cage, I had no nerves, no doubts**

but I'm a smart man and am aware of the consequences. My current plan is to get as far as I can without risking my own life."

In conclusion, Maddix Ian Running Rabbit's debut in Muay Thai is just the beginning of what promises to be an exciting career. His hard work, determination and resilience were clearly evident in his first victory, and with the support of his family, coaches and teammates, Maddix is poised to continue making strides in the sport. As he continues to hone his skills and pursue his goals, his journey will inspire many. A proud Siksika Nation stands behind him, eager to see what he achieves next. This victory is only the first of many more to come.



By Tyrone Sitting Eagle

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## AIKAAYSIAAPI RELAY CAMP PUTS RIDERS IN THE SADDLE

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**F**rom March 31st to April 3rd, the Siksika Children's Prevention Early Intervention Aikaaysiaapi and Children's Services hosted the 3rd Annual Warrior Relay Riding Camp! The event provided youth and community members the chance to learn about riding, racing, and training horses from experienced industry professionals such as Champion Relay Racer Chazz Racine, Jarrett Pretty Young Man, Cody Big Tobacco, Allison Red Crow, Logan Red Crow, Mark Big Tobacco, Casey Maguire, Brooker Pretty Young Man, Rufus Pretty Young Man Jr, Elder Rufus Pretty Young Man Sr, and Tyler Leather. Program coordinator and creator Jarrett Pretty Young Man was excited, as there was a growing number of participants this year, and he ensured that a dedicated group of individuals was there to facilitate.

Many trained horses, as well as untrained horses, were present to provide hands-on training to riders of all skill levels, from beginners to

more experienced participants. This allowed each participant to learn the fundamentals, from saddling a horse to learning how to relay race. A big highlight of the camp was the opportunity to witness the training of a horse. Champion racer Chazz Racine provided an in-depth demonstration, showcasing his skill and expertise in training a horse that had not been ridden before.

One of the main purposes of hosting this event was not only to get youth involved with horses but also to provide them with healthy outlets and promote healthy living. Horsemanship has a long history in Siksika, with many knowledgeable and passionate people in the horse industry, who are eager to help the youth in the community find their own passions.

Pretty Young Man expressed his excitement about the camp's growing popularity over the past few years, saying, "This camp is very popular, and it's been running for over three

years. All the participants get a lot of exposure from the ground up, dealing with wild horses and turning them into saddle horses. They also learn about the racing industry and how to properly care for thoroughbreds, with a lot of hands-on learning," he said in an interview with Siksika Media.

A great aspect of this camp is that participants aren't just learning from anyone—they're learning from individuals who not only make a living in the industry but have also worked as stuntmen in movies and are champion riders themselves. This ensures the best possible training, while prioritizing the safety of each individual taking part. With this being a very successful year for the Relay Riding Camp, it has seen many new participants, bringing a variety of individuals eager to learn about horses and racing. This is helping youth find a healthy way of living and ensuring that horse culture in Siksika remains strong.



# SOUL OF MIISTAKI

By Jasmine Majoros

**W**hat started out as a curiosity for the mountains turned into an unexpected journey of discovery and preservation of cultural connection. Soul of Miistaki is a non-profit Indigenous-led outdoor program that offers a range of activities to everyone from all walks of life. Its participants will not only enjoy rock climbing and hiking but will have the chance to learn about and create their own connections to the traditional Indigenous lands of the mountains. Many have come a long way to take part in this unique experience and did not entirely expect to leave with more than what they brought with them.

And that is what happened when Cassie Ayoungman also decided to embrace the outdoor mountain life. When she started out with hiking

and climbing, she figured it was good because she was contributing to her health and active lifestyle. But after realizing that it was just as good for her mental health and thought of it as very therapeutic, there was especially a holistic feeling as she began to feel connected to her traditional Indigenous territory. Thus began her journey to help break barriers with Indigenous knowledge and healing through “movement” and self-growth.

When she first began collaborating with Dirtbabe Collective, another women’s organization, they were able to bring 10 women from Siksika to climb. Then from there, they had elders come to smudge and teach the participants about the history. Along the way, as word spread, others came forward offering their time

and skills to contribute to her cause. It was a big learning experience for Ayoungman trying to get this plan off the ground. But with her dedication and hard work, 4 years later, she officially became the founder of Soul of Miistaki, joining her team as well as board members Coralia Sevilla and Lexie Obey. She goes on to mention and thank all the volunteers, guides, businesses, and folks that contributed/donated to helping continue Soul of Miistaki’s work: Arc’teryx Alberta, Onward Up Campus, and Yamnuska Mountain Adventures.

As of recently, she has worked with Trevor Solway to create a short film about her journey, which is set to premiere in late spring. It will be an awe-inspiring short film that takes a glimpse into one of their cultural

climbing camps. Soul of Miistaki is solely based out of Canmore and Calgary, and Ayoungman hopes to see her business running on the Siksika reservation, particularly having an indoor climbing center built for the community. This year, they will also be having their 5th Annual Culture Climbing Camp. Although it's an intimidating sport, they assure their programs are geared towards making it easy for beginners and focus on getting the climbers to get out of their comfort zone and promote self-growth.

"I find that the mountains have a soul, and there's a lot to learn from the mountains. They humble you, make you cry, they make you feel all these feelings when you're exploring them. I wanted a Blackfoot word in there, so I sat on it for 4 months, and then Soul of Miistaki is what it meant," explains Cassie Ayoungman.



---

**“THERE’S A LOT TO LEARN FROM THE MOUNTAINS. THEY HUMBLE YOU, MAKE YOU CRY, THEY MAKE YOU FEEL ALL THESE FEELINGS WHEN YOU’RE EXPLORING THEM”**

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# people, place





# es and faces



photos by Siksika Media

# puzzles

## word search

### NATIONAL PARKS IN CANADA

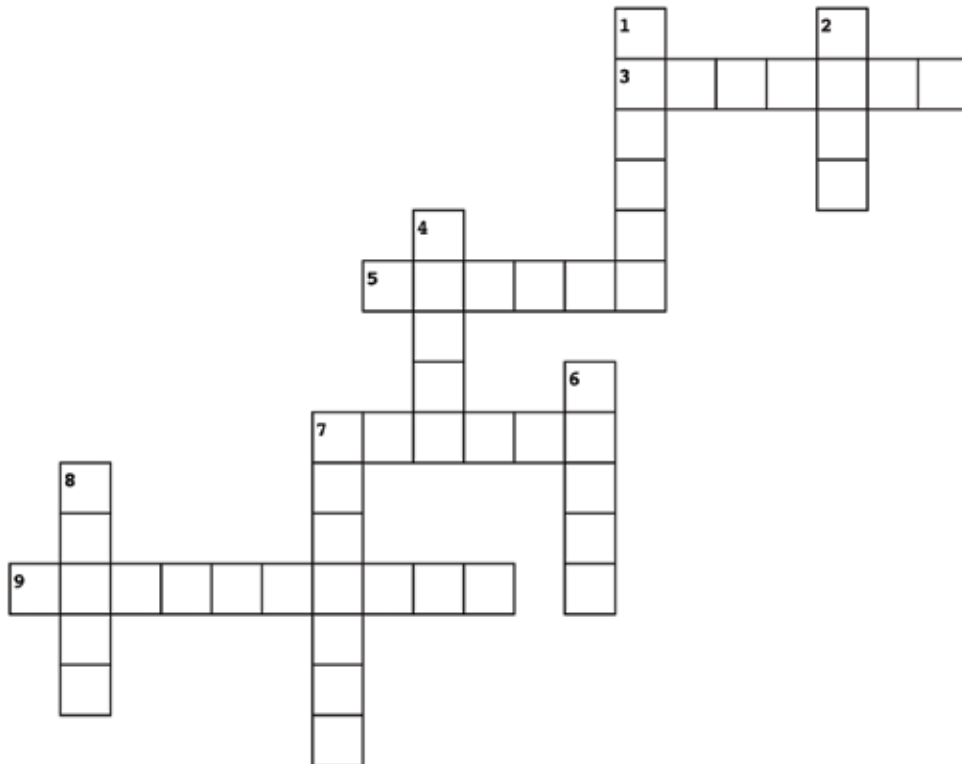
E	A	O	I	V	V	A	V	I	K	H	N	A	N
B	G	R	A	S	S	L	A	N	D	S	O	S	H
R	A	A	S	L	A	S	I	R	M	I	L	I	K
I	F	N	G	T	E	N	A	L	H	J	N	R	N
A	U	P	F	O	O	N	Y	I	N	A	A	G	O
U	N	U	K	F	S	R	W	A	N	S	H	L	L
L	D	K	O	O	T	E	N	A	Y	P	A	O	L
A	Y	A	L	W	P	S	K	G	W	E	N	O	I
V	S	S	Y	K	N	S	A	E	A	R	N	I	R
I	E	K	K	V	U	A	T	P	K	T	I	T	O
K	H	W	K	P	N	O	U	Y	O	H	O	U	F
S	N	A	A	S	A	I	N	O	D	L	V	N	O
A	N	W	K	K	Y	F	S	M	H	A	N	K	E
O	A	F	N	R	N	E	N	A	U	L	K	U	P

- GRASSLANDS
- TORNGAT
- KOOTENAY
- IVVAVIK
- PUKASKWA
- SIRMILIK
- WAPUSK
- NAHANNI
- BANFF
- AULAVIK
- FUNDY
- KLUANE
- YOHO
- FORILLON
- JASPER

### RADIO SCHEDULE



## crossword

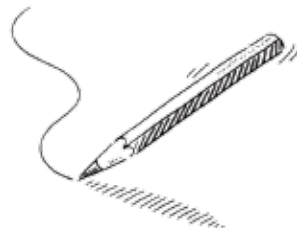


### Across

- 3. iphone competitor
- 5. powdered tea
- 7. desert in africa
- 9. alice in

### Down

- 1. japanese cherry
- 2. small horse
- 4. tells time
- 6. yellow fruit
- 7. brother or sister
- 8. lives under a bridge or online



# CLASSIFIEDS

Fresh Routes market  
Every Tuesday 12.00 - 2.00 PM  
Fresh, healthy and affordable fruits and vegetables and other grocery items  
For more information: [freshroutes.ca](http://freshroutes.ca)

Employment Opportunity  
Siksika Family Services Corporation  
Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator  
Siksika Resource Center  
Contract  
Resumes and cover letters should be emailed to [hmr@siksikafamilyservices.com](mailto:hmr@siksikafamilyservices.com)  
Please quote Job Title on your cover letter

LEAD BY EXAMPLE POWWOW  
REGISTRATION OPEN  
Miss Lead by Example Princess Pageant 2025-2026  
ALYSSA IRON HEART 2024 2025  
PLEASE SEE WEBSITE TO REGISTER  
[www.leadbyexamplepowwow.ca](http://www.leadbyexamplepowwow.ca)

Spay Clinic  
May 30 - June 1  
Canadian Animal Task Force will be offering wellness checks and spaying/neutering  
For more information go to [cataskforce.org/events](http://cataskforce.org/events)

Employment Opportunity  
Siksika Family Services Corporation  
Receptionist  
Strathmore Office  
Full-Time  
Resumes and cover letters should be emailed to [hmr@siksikafamilyservices.com](mailto:hmr@siksikafamilyservices.com)  
Please quote Job Title on your cover letter

Kimmapiiytssini Grief & Loss Support Group  
Every second Tuesday at the Siksika Health & Wellness Centre  
Call Home Care at 403-734-5695 to register, and to request transportation in advance

Siksika Addictions Program  
NA Meeting  
Thursdays from 7.00 PM to 8.00 PM  
Siksika Health & Wellness Centre  
Contact: 403.734.5687

Mother's Day Gratitude Event  
Celebrating Motherhood and Mother Figures  
May 7  
4.00 - 9.00 PM  
Siksika Piiksapi Memorial Arbor  
To nominate a mother figure  
<https://siksikahealth.com/2025/04/15/mothers-day-gratitude-event-submission-form/>

One goal unites us, Many journeys inspires us  
RELAY FOR RECOVERY  
RELAY START: 8 AM West End, Siksika  
RELAY ENDS: 4:45 PM Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park, East End  
JOIN US FOR THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATION/ BANQUET AT 5 PM (5:00 PM)  
MAY 16 2025  
CONTACT: Double Book 587-4237258 | [ford.road.recreation@me.com](mailto:ford.road.recreation@me.com)

HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP?  
JOB POSTING YOU'D LIKE TO ADVERTISE?  
SEND IT TO US  
[MEDIA@SIKSIKANATION.COM](mailto:MEDIA@SIKSIKANATION.COM)

Employment Opportunity  
Siksika Police Service  
Police Chief  
Provides leadership, strategic direction and oversight of Siksika Nation's police service. Requires extensive experience in law enforcement, with a strong understanding of Indigenous policing. For more information or to apply, send an email to: [mariahlc@siksikanation.com](mailto:mariahlc@siksikanation.com)  
403.734.5109

SIKSIKA NATION FAIR  
GOLF TOURNAMENT  
THURSDAY JUNE 26, 2025  
SPEARGRASS GOLF COURSE, CARSELAND, ALBERTA  
8AM CHECK IN | 8AM SHOTGUN  
2:15 FORMAT (2M/1F)  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 19, 2025  
PRIZES IN DIFFERENT FLIGHTS:  
• HOLE PRIZES  
• BEST DRESSED TEAM  
• SUPER KP  
\$750/TEAM (\$250/PLAYER)  
\$1,000 WITH HOLE SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES CART & LUNCH  
CONTACT: RICHARD BURNING BARRETT  
EMAIL: [RICHARD@SIKSIKAHEALTH.COM](mailto:RICHARD@SIKSIKAHEALTH.COM)

2025 IELCC Symposium  
Indigenous Early Learning & Child Care  
May 22 - 23  
Deerfoot Inn & Casino, Mohkinstsis  
Hosted by Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council  
Open to the Early Learning Community: frontline workers, parents, managers/directors and leadership  
Contact:  
587.287.1100  
[info@blackfootconfederacy.ca](mailto:info@blackfootconfederacy.ca)

Siksika Addictions Program  
AA Meeting  
Thursdays from 7.00 PM to 8.00 PM  
Siksika Health & Wellness Centre  
Contact: 403.734.5687



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# 2025 SIKSIKA NATION FAIR POWWOW

**JUNE 27-29**

**SIKSIKA,  
ALBERTA**

**Grand Entry**

Friday 7pm  
Saturday 1 & 7  
Sunday 1pm

**Specials - TBA**  
**Host Drum**

Ho-Chunk Station -  
Lydon Station, Wisconsin

**MC's**

Bart Powaukee - Fort Duchesne, UT  
Tony Delaney - Kainai, AB

**Arena Directors**

Rusty Gillette - Bismark, ND  
Skunkie Scabby Robe - Tacoma, WA

**Head Dance Judges**

Patrick Mitsuing - Loon Lake, SK  
Sophia Turning Robe - Spokane, WA

**Head Drum Judge**

Patrick Armstrong - Browning, MT

- SIKSIKA NATION IS NOT  
RESPONSIBLE FOR SHORT FUNDED  
TRAVELLERS, THEFT, OR  
VANDALISM -

Pow wow committee reserves the right to  
remove saved seating to ensure  
equitable access for all visitors.

**Specials, Giveaways, & Honour Dances**

**Chief and Council Giveaway**

**Post Secondary Awards & Honor Dance**

**Elders Lodge Staff Honor Dance**

**Khloe Watson - Initiation**

**Outgoing Tiny Tot Princess**  
Tiny Tot Special

**Outgoing Miss Kookona**  
Jr. Girls Contemporary Jingle Special

**Outgoing Miss Siksika**  
Iron Woman's Fancy

**Richard Sparvier & Family**  
Men's Chicken Dance Special

**Shirley Bull Bear Memorial**  
Ladies Golden age

**Crow Chief Family**  
18+ Ladies Contemporary Jingle Special

**Cota Big Snake Chicken Dance Special**

**Garrett Alexander Memorial Chicken**  
Dance Special

**Contacts:**

**Powwow - Chris Bull Bear 403-634-7825**

**Vendors - Maryann BP 403-324-2677**

[Maryannbp@siksikafamilyservices.com](mailto:Maryannbp@siksikafamilyservices.com)

**Hand Games - Kenn Many Heads 403-361-4285**

**Rodeo - Ida Duck Chief 403-901-5572**

**Dance Contest**

1st 2nd 3rd 4th

**Men's Buckskin 18+**

\$1,400 \$1,200 \$1,000 \$800

**Golden age 55+**

\$1,400 \$1,200 \$1,000 \$800

**Sr. Adults 40-54**

\$1,400 \$1,200 \$1,000 \$800

**Jr. Adult 18-39**

\$1,400 \$1,200 \$1,000 \$800

**Teen Categories 13 - 17**

\$700 \$600 \$500 \$400

**Junior Categories 7-12**

\$500 \$400 \$300 \$200

*Arbour will open 1 hour before grand entry  
but will be open for showers for visitors.*

**SIKSIKANATIONFAIR.COM**

